GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1247
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
RURAL TELEPHONE CORPORATION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to form a Rural Telecom Corporation to cater the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve, extend and cope up with low level of maintenance in telecom services in rural areas and reduce STD call charges?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): No Sir. There is no such proposal in BSNL.

(d) Maintenance efforts have been stepped up to provide better telephone services in rural areas by setting up task forces in the circles. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems are planned to be deployed on a large scale in rural areas for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and telephone connections. Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPTs are proposed to be replaced by WLL telephones in a phased manner starting from the current year. STD charges are reviewed regularly on the basis of recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.